

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-10, and 12-27 are pending in this application. In this Response, Applicant has amended claims 1, 12, 16, 20, and 22, and cancelled claim 11. In light of the final Office Action, Applicant believes these amendments serve a useful clarification purpose, and are desirable for clarification purposes, independent of patentability. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the claim amendments do not limit the range of any permissible equivalents.

In particular, independent claims 1, 16, and 22 have been rewritten to clarify that an index of transcription documents is created by using the value of a pattern identified in the contents of the transcription documents. Dependent claim 11 has been canceled to maintain consistency with the changes to independent 1, and dependent claim 12 has been amended to change its dependency. As no new matter has been added, Applicant respectfully requests entry of these amendments at this time.

A. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1-8, 11-12, and 26-27 have been indicated as rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being obvious over Lucas et al. US Patent Publication No. 2002/014533 in view of Quine US Patent No. 6,717,957. It is believed that the Examiner also intended to indicate claims 14-22, 26, and 27 as rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being obvious over Lucas et al. US Patent Publication No. 2002/014533 in view of Quine US Patent No. 6,717,957.

The Applicant respectfully submits that there are fundamental differences between the invention now claimed and the cited prior art. Amended claims 1, 16, and 22 now recite, inter alia, creating an index of the transcribed documents, wherein each index for a document is at least a value associated with a predefined pattern comprising at least one indexing field in the contents of the document. For example, the present invention creates an index of the documents stored in a folder. The index can be used to identify and search for documents in the folder.

Lucas does not teach the limitations as now recited in amended claims 1, 16 and 22. Lucas indexes the words or letters of a transcribed document so that they refer to a sound in an audio file corresponding to the transcribed document. The indexing performed by Lucas fails to use the value associated with a predefined pattern comprising an index field identified in the document. In addition, the index in Lucas is an index of a document's contents. In contrast, the

present invention creates an index of documents. Thus, Lucas fails to disclose the first limitation as recited in amended claims 1, 16 and 22.

Quine does not cure the deficiencies of Lucas. Quine is directed towards a closed-loop message distribution method directed primarily to applications where both senders and recipients are employees of a single organization. The system forwards or delivers documents in accordance with a preferred mode of communication. Quine does not disclose creating an index of documents. Accordingly, Lucas neither alone or in combination with Quine teach the invention now claimed by amended claim 1, 16, and 22.

Claims 2-4, 6-8, and 12-15 depend from claim 1, claims 17-21 depend from claim 16, and claims 26 and 27 depend from claim 22. Accordingly, claims 2-4, 6-8, 12-15, 17-21, 26, and 27 are not obvious for at least the reasons specified above with respect to claims, 1, 16, and 22.

Claims 9, 10 and 23-25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being obvious over Lucas et al. US Patent Publication No. 2002/014533 in view of Podhradsky US Patent No. 5,978,755 in view of Quine US Patent No. 6,717,957.

Claims 9 and 10 depend from claim 1, and claims 23-25 depend from claim 22. As discussed above the combination of Lucas and Quine does not teach the invention disclosed by independent claims 1 and 22. Podhradsky does not cure the deficiencies of Lucas and Quine. Accordingly, Lucas neither alone or in combination with Quine and Podhradsky teach the invention now claimed by amended claim 1, and 22.

B. Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims is requested. If the Examiner has any questions about this Amendment and to facilitate prosecution, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned attorney. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with this

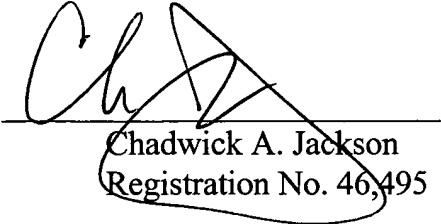
application to Deposit Account No. 19-5127 referencing 25241.0004.

Respectfully submitted,

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